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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

OCT 13 1988

Honorable William L. Ball, III
Secretary of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Will,

In fiscal year 1988 Congress made funds available to Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for the establishment and administration of the Pan-Pacific Educational and Cultural Experiments by Satellite (PEACESAT) program. There is also draft legislation, currently in conference, which would direct me to expeditiously negotiate and acquire satellite communications capability for the Pacific Ocean region for this program.

One of the most economical and easily used options being considered for this program is the MARISAT/GAPSAT satellite located over the Pacific Ocean region. The draft legislation indicates that the PEACESAT space segment may operate in those portions of the UHF frequency band (225-400 MHz) assigned to the Department of the Navy unless the President finds that the use of this spectrum solely by DOD is essential to the national security of the United States. The Navy currently has frequency authorizations from NTIA to use this satellite in the UHF band. NTIA does not, however, have information on DOD's current and planned use of the satellite.

I request that you review DOD's use of the MARISAT/GAPSAT satellite, recognizing the sustained interest of Congress, with a view toward making one 25 kHz channel available for use by PEACESAT. There has already been some discussion of this issue between personnel in NTIA and the Navy's Space, Command and Control.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donna", is written over a horizontal line.

Donna Tuttle